

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 11, 2008

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 23, 2008

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 8, 2008

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1872**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Coto  
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Davis, Dymally, Horton, and  
Huffman)**

(Coauthors: Senators Cedillo and Correa)

February 4, 2008

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An act to add Section 56848 to the Education Code, relating to special education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1872, as amended, Coto. Special education: autism spectrum disorders: clearinghouse.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with input from the University of California, the California State University, relevant fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature, the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism, the State Department of Developmental Services, and other appropriate entities, to convene an advisory committee to develop specified recommendations that would identify the means by which public and nonpublic schools, including charter schools, may better serve children with autism, including, but not limited to, children with autism spectrum disorders.

This bill would establish the California Autism Spectrum Disorder Clearinghouse within the State Department of Education to provide evidence-based resources, research materials, information, and practices

regarding the education of pupils with autism spectrum disorders. The department would be required to administer the clearinghouse in coordination with the State Department of Developmental Services. The Superintendent would be required to convene an oversight committee to represent the major stakeholders responsible for the education of pupils with autism spectrum disorders and to perform other related duties.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 56848 is added to the Education Code,  
2 to read:  
3 56848. (a) The California Autism Spectrum Disorder  
4 Clearinghouse is hereby established within the department and  
5 shall be administered by the department in coordination with the  
6 State Department of Developmental Services.  
7 (b) (1) The clearinghouse shall provide evidence-based and  
8 recommended information and practices regarding the education  
9 of pupils with autism spectrum disorders, including, but not limited  
10 to, information about and examples of instructional strategies,  
11 fiscal management practices, and organizational structures  
12 supporting quality service delivery.  
13 (2) Information provided through the clearinghouse shall be  
14 targeted to a range of audiences, including, but not limited to,  
15 special and general education teachers, school administrators,  
16 speech-language pathologists, school psychologists,  
17 paraprofessionals, transportation specialists, parents and guardians,  
18 impacted pupils, and community service providers.  
19 (c) The clearinghouse shall focus on, but need not be limited  
20 to, all of the following goals:  
21 (1) Creating an Internet Web site modeled after proven efforts  
22 within California and nationwide. The Internet Web site shall  
23 include, but need not be limited to, links to other sites with  
24 evidence-based practices and resources for autism spectrum  
25 disorders available electronically or in hard copy.  
26 (2) Creating a directory of evidence-based resources and  
27 practices for autism spectrum disorders.

1 (3) Featuring demonstration programs that are evidence-based,  
2 culturally sensitive, and linguistically appropriate.

3 (d) (1) The Superintendent shall convene an oversight  
4 committee to represent the major stakeholders responsible for the  
5 education of pupils with autism spectrum disorders, including local  
6 educational agencies, special education local plan areas, charter  
7 schools, nonpublic schools and agencies, teachers, parents, county  
8 offices of education, university researchers, private providers,  
9 representatives from the State Department of Developmental  
10 Services project “Autism Spectrum Disorders: Guidelines for  
11 Effective Interventions,” and the Legislature. The oversight  
12 committee shall do all of the following:

13 (A) Establish criteria, guidelines, and processes for the selection  
14 of evidence-based resources and research materials for the  
15 education of pupils with autism spectrum disorders and approve  
16 those materials prior to posting them in the clearinghouse.

17 (B) Select anchor documents and resources, including the State  
18 Department of Developmental Services project “Autism Spectrum  
19 Disorders: Guidelines for Effective Interventions.”

20 (C) Develop an online rating system, periodic surveys of users  
21 regarding general and specific aspects of the functions of the  
22 clearinghouse, or another means of acquiring and evaluating user  
23 feedback about the clearinghouse from all targeted audiences. The  
24 results of this feedback shall be used to contribute to a periodic  
25 assessment of the effectiveness of information and resources  
26 provided through the clearinghouse Internet Web site.

27 (2) The members of the oversight committee shall serve without  
28 compensation.

29 (e) *The Legislature recognizes that the regional center system*  
30 *serves individuals who are deemed eligible pursuant to subdivision*  
31 *(a) of Section 95014 of the Government Code and subdivisions (a)*  
32 *and (l) of Section 4512 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.*  
33 *Nothing in this section is intended to change existing eligibility*  
34 *requirements for receiving regional center services.*